

President Kennedy lowered tax rates in the 1960s, we had several years of real economic growth of 5 percent. And the same is true of tax relief during the 1920s, where economic growth averaged 4.3 percent.

History has shown us that tax relief can spur economic growth and can allow hardworking American families to keep more of what they earn and increase government revenues.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some say that tax relief is too expensive. But in fact, under a worst-case scenario, if the President's plan generates no economic growth at all, the package would account for only 5 percent of the \$2.2 trillion budget proposed for next year. Yet as many of my colleagues from across the aisle decry deficits and tax relief on the one hand, they are the first to demand more Federal spending on the other. Instead of focusing on the 5 percent of the budget that constitutes tax relief, perhaps we should all focus on the 95 percent which constitutes Federal spending, much of which is pure waste and duplication.

Today, we have nearly twice as much inflation-adjusted Federal spending per family than when I was born. Do we really need that much Federal Government? And over this same period, inflation-adjusted Federal spending has grown seven times faster than our family budgets. Is it any wonder that our family tax burdens are near an all-time high? A middle income American family can now pay up to 40 percent of their income in Federal, State, and local taxes. That is not tax fairness.

The President's economic program is tax fairness because it provides tax relief to taxpayers, especially middle income Americans.

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Mr. Speaker, 46 million married couples would keep over \$1,700 of what they earned, enough to pay two mortgage payments. Now that is a housing program. Thirty-four million families with children would keep an additional \$1,500, enough to purchase a new personal computer for their children. That is an education program. Six million single women with children would keep \$541, which could purchase a month of day-care. That is a child care program.

Middle-income families would also receive additional relief from accelerated reduction of the marriage penalty, a faster increase in the child care tax credit, and immediate implementation of the new, lower 10 percent tax bracket.

To boost investor confidence and encourage investment, the President's plan also eliminates the unfair double taxation on dividends. The elimination of this unfair double taxation on dividends is expected to produce a one-time increase in equity values of up to 5 percent, at a time when we desperately need to increase stock values and consumer confidence.

Mr. Speaker, about half of all dividend income goes to our seniors who

often rely on those checks for a steady source of retirement income.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot tax, spend, or sue our way into prosperity. We can only grow our way into prosperity. I strongly encourage Members to support the President's jobs and growth plan.

BOMBS AND BULLETS WILL NOT WIN WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am here to share the opposition of my constituents to a war in Iraq. The folks I work for understand that the war on terror cannot be won with bombs and bullets, that we can fight with bombs and bullets, but that will not end terror, nor will this approach ensure the safety of Americans. Only a strategy of multilateralism, humanitarian aid and development can win the war on terror. Only a strategy that preempts new terror attacks without creating new terrorists can win the war on terror. Bombs, bullets, and war are not the solution to terrorism. My constituents understand this.

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) has been coordinating with an organization called Poets Against the War. This organization has been collecting poems written by Americans around the country. Their poems reflect their concerns about current U.S. policy toward the war against terror and Iraq.

Today it is my honor to share a poem that was written by one of my constituents, Elizabeth Barret, an 83-year-old woman from Mill Valley, California. She wrote a poem called "Peace."

"I will listen to my heart. I know that I need to open my heart to God. The prospect of war makes me cry out for peace. Where are all the mothers and children? Where are all the men whose hearts have been hurt? Do they not know that they were at one time children too?"

"The world needs peace. We have become very small. We need to love each other more than ever. Who will help the world? The women and children will save the world."

Mrs. Barret eloquently makes the key point that we should measure every single decision this House makes by its affect on our Nation's children. She understands that an invasion of Iraq will inspire a new generation of terrorists to threaten our children.

Instead of following this path of destruction, we can work to contain Iraq and concentrate on destroying al Qaeda. That is what is best for our children. One of those children, 15-year-old Carina from San Rafael, California, wrote this poem. It is called "Lady Paz."

"I imagine there are jungles inside her if not under her fertile skins, what

hope? I know it is our vampire wishes that leech life from this stolen soil our scrawled, thoughtless messages that degrade such indelible bark.

"I can see her relief so clearly, the dark impressions of her liquid eye casting cacophonous shadows across our curve of hazy planet.

"Give us your real hand, the one where sap pulses warm and whose clasp is meaty and sharp through sun's dream-tricks whose brown fingers don't leave us abandoned and guessing.

"Will you take us, our legs streaked in ash, our misconceptions bending and bending, the fissures in earth's crust growing deeper, the molten rock bubbling up like blood? Oh, peace, you must be a tainted lady. A tainted lady to tame us screaming so."

Mr. Speaker, Carina understands that violence is not the way to peace. She understands that we can start a war in Iraq and destroy Baghdad from the air. And she understands that after sending our soldiers and their soldiers to the grave, we can win a war in Iraq, but that will not win the war on terrorism.

The only way to win the one war that matters, the war on terrorism, is to bolster crumbling societies, support economic development and end support for undemocratic regimes. Let us do the right thing for ourselves and for our children. These children, 25 percent of our population, are 100 percent of the future of this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

TROOPS IN IRAQ WILL ONCE AGAIN BE EXPOSED TO DEADLY CHEMICALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk on behalf of three doctors and myself. I was a physician during the Vietnam War. I was in Long Beach. I saw the troops coming back from the Vietnam War, and I saw what the war did to them. I also have been in government since then and have seen how our government for many years denied that